

## Gallaudet Fact—

**Q.** What pastime took hold in the deaf community of the 1890s and spread to the Gallaudet campus?

- A. Bingo
- B. Bicycle riding
- C. Martial arts
- D. Calisthenics

Find out on page 2.



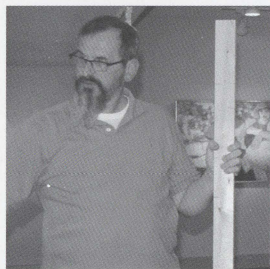
A panel of representatives from area universities discusses measures their institutions have taken to go "green" and comply with a sustainability pledge each of their presidents signed. The March 25 event was facilitated by Gallaudet student Jessica Frank (left), an environmental intern with Business Services. The panel included (from third left) Lindsay Modeira, sustainability coordinator at American University; Joshua Lasky, a presidential administrative fellow working in the Office of Sustainability at The George Washington University; and Colin Bennett, sustainability assistant in the Office of Sustainability at George Mason University. (Also pictured is interpreter Jeff Williamson.)

## IN THIS ISSUE

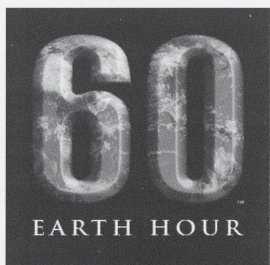


### Roving Reporter

Earl Terry is clipping coupons to save money in this uncertain economic climate.



Andre Pellerin demonstrates how he hangs pictures so they are accessible to everyone.



The University observed Earth Hour on March 28 by going dark between 8:30 and 9:30 p.m.



Brianne Weber of the Deaf Muslim Association speaks during the University's second annual Diversity Week.

On the Green—A publication for Gallaudet faculty, teachers, and staff  
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## Strategic planning for Gallaudet in 2015 and beyond

By Dr. Richard Lytle

**W**hat must Gallaudet University do to achieve the next level of excellence in academics, outreach, and research over the next five years? How will it adapt to the dramatic changes occurring both in higher education and among tomorrow's population of deaf and hard of hearing students? These are the vital questions Gallaudet must answer in developing a new strategic plan to lead the University into the future.

### How we got here

In October 2008, Gallaudet's Board of Trustees (BOT) established a Joint Task Force on Long Range Strategic Planning (JTF) to drive the process of developing the University's plan for the years 2010 to 2015. The JTF—which consists of representatives from the BOT, Board of Associates, Alumni Association, faculty, staff, and administration—was charged with having a draft plan ready for consideration at the May 2009 BOT meeting.

During the fall, members of the JTF participated in several activities with the University community envisioning where they want Gallaudet to be

by the year 2020, and in December the JTF Small Group retained consultants from Booz Allen Hamilton to assist in the planning process. The consultants attended a two-day retreat in mid-December of more than 40 faculty, staff, administrators, BOT members, and representatives from GUAA and the Board of Associates to begin a dialogue about Gallaudet's long-term future.

An 11-member group of University representatives was formed to work with the consultants and assist in developing and analyzing Gallaudet's strategic options. The group conducted an environmental scan that involved interviews with more than 30 faculty, administrators, staff, alumni, parents, and external stakeholders, along with the analysis of two dozen documents and databases.

The pre-existing Long Range Strategic Planning (LRSP) Steering Committee then split into four groups that explored different elements of a possible new vision for Gallaudet and presented these at a February retreat. Their work was incorporated into the draft report presented to the BOT at its February 12 meeting.

At that meeting, the BOT affirmed the overall direction and process for the strategic planning

*continued on page 2*



Dr. Daphne Bavelier, professor of brain and cognitive sciences at the University of Rochester, presents her research on brain plasticity and learning among deaf people to a Gallaudet audience on March 11. Past studies have indicated the possibility that following early auditory deprivation the remaining senses are enhanced. Bavelier and her colleagues investigated the change in visual attention and its impact on deaf individuals. She argued that they do not have better or worse vision than hearing individuals, but that their vision is different. She claimed that being deaf leads to changes in specific aspects of visual attention, such as focusing more attention on the periphery of the field of vision than to central areas. In line with this argument she posited that deaf individuals are

more distracted by visual information in the periphery. She said that it is important for educators to understand and utilize visual learners' useful field of view. Bavelier's lecture was part of the 2008-2009 VL2 Presentation Series.

## First Year Study Tour a success

By Dr. Barbara White

**D**uring Spring break, March 14 to 21, an assembly of 73 new Gallaudet students, accompanied by 17 faculty and staff, and eight interpreters, went to Costa Rica for the First Year Study Tour (FYST). The FYST is a vision of the Gallaudet administration and was implemented by the Office of Enrollment Management, under the direction of Dean Margery Miller. The concept of the tour comes from the current trend in higher education where colleges all over the United States are increasing their study tour offerings to foster global citizenship and social responsibility in their graduates.

The trip was open to all new students who enrolled in fall 2008. In order to qualify to go, the students had to carry a GPA of at least 2.5. Touria Boren, a project specialist in Enrollment Management, and Dr. Barbara White, a professor in the Department of Social Work and faculty fellow with Enrollment Management, were co-directors of the tour, and were involved in planning the trip's logistics and itinerary with the Costa Rican Cultural Center, based in San José.

AT&T, a major corporate sponsor of the trip, recognized the service learning component of the

trip by accepting a proposal to bring 75 TTYs to donate to the deaf community of Costa Rica. The TTYs were given to both the deaf schools and the Costa Rican National Deaf Association (ANASCOR) for distribution to those in need. Costa Rica has a TTY relay service but no video relay service yet, so TTYs are highly valued there. White is still accepting donations of TTYs for next year's trip.

One of the highlights of the trip was a visit to two deaf schools near San José—Paraiso de Cartago, and the Centro Nacional de Educacion Especial in Guadalupe. The students split in two groups, and at each school the children put on a program for the Gallaudet guests, and accepted the donations of TTYs. Gallaudet students spent several hours during recess interacting with the students through games they brought as donations.

To give the Gallaudet group a sense of the biodiversity of the country, the itinerary included a visit to the Manuel Antonio National Park, where they saw unusual wildlife, including a close-up view of Capuchin monkeys in the trees—so close that one monkey came on the beach and took someone's lunch.

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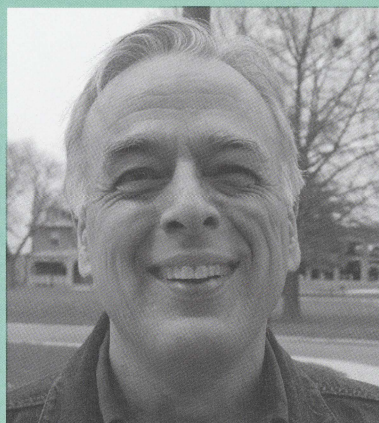
## Roving Reporter

How are you tightening your budget in response to today's economy?



*I stopped using high-test fuel in the Rolls-Royce! Seriously, I am thankful for having a job.*

Richard Lytle, executive director of Strategic Planning and special assistant to the president, Office of the President



*Staying home to watch movies, not buying unnecessary items, and hoping things will get better for everyone.*

Dan Wallace, assistant director, Gallaudet University Press



*Using coupons from the Sunday newspaper and the Internet to buy things and save money.*

Earl Terry, student



*My husband and I aren't at the Market Place as much because we bring our lunch to work.*

Deborah Shaw, accounts payable specialist, Finance Office

## Strategic planning

*continued from page 1*

effort, provided input to the preliminary draft of Gallaudet's vision for 2015, and approved the five draft goals that had been developed.

### Those five goals address:

- A) Significantly growing Gallaudet's enrollment of full-time undergraduates, full- and part-time graduate students, and continuing education students
- B) Dramatically increasing the six-year undergraduate graduation rate
- C) Securing a sustainable resource base through expanded and diversified funding partnerships and increased efficiency of operations
- D) Refining a core set of undergraduate and graduate programs that are aligned with the institutional mission and vision, leverage Gallaudet's many strengths, and best position students for career success
- E) Establishing Gallaudet as the epicenter of research, development, and outreach leading to advancements in knowledge and practice for deaf and hard of hearing people and all humanity

In the three weeks following the February board meeting, members of the 44-member LRSP Advisory Group (expanded from the original Steering Committee) validated the five draft goals and developed objectives and strategies under each. Separate groups were formed to focus on each goal, assisted by five teams who advised them on matters of diversity, international issues, online technology, Deaf Gain/bilingualism, and partnerships.

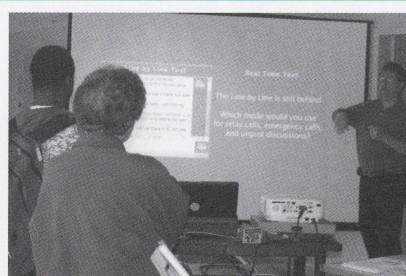
In all, more than 55 faculty, administrators, and staff worked intensely during this short time frame to produce a comprehensive package of goals, objectives, and strategies designed to propel Gallaudet to the next level of excellence by 2015. Their tireless efforts demonstrate the passion and commitment that have been so crucial to Gallaudet's past and future success.

## What lies ahead

The month of April is devoted to seeking campus and stakeholder feedback and input on the result of all of this hard work—Gallaudet's draft strategic plan for 2010 to 2015. Meetings will be held with a wide range of stakeholders, including University administrators, the Staff Advisory Council, the Faculty Senate, student focus groups, the Board of Associates, and the U.S. Department of Education, and at least one Town Hall will be held. Feedback will also be sought from alumni, parents, and external organizations.

Details on these outreach activities and the draft strategic plan will be posted on the webpage [vision2020.gallaudet.edu](http://vision2020.gallaudet.edu), which will also feature an interactive form to submit input. All community input will be presented to the BOT at its May meeting, along with the complete proposed strategic plan. Every member of the Gallaudet community is encouraged to participate and ensure their voices are heard as we work together to ensure that our University will thrive into the next generation and beyond. ■

*Dr. Richard Lytle is the executive director of Strategic Planning and special assistant to the president.*



Senior Research Engineer Norman Williams demonstrates the Real-Time IM feature of Instant Messenger (AIM) 6.8 that he helped develop at the Marketplace on March 25. Real-Time IM lets AIM "buddies" see each other's text, letter by letter, as it is typed, rather than having to wait until the message is complete and one user has hit "send." Williams created the feature as part of his work for the Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center on Telecommunications Access at Gallaudet, in collaboration with the Trace Center at the University of Wisconsin. Information Technology Services has updated AIM Messenger on most Gallaudet PCs. To see Real-Time IM, press Control-R during a chat. To learn more about AIM 6.8 and how to download it on personal PCs, go to [tap.gallaudet.edu/text/aol](http://tap.gallaudet.edu/text/aol).

## Bison Roundup

### Baseball

The Bison ended the month of March with a 2-17-1 record, dropping a double header to conference foe St. Mary's on March 29. However, it has not all been bad news for the Bison of late. On March 22 at Hoy Field, the Bison nearly pulled an upset of conference powerhouse Mary Washington, eventually falling 3-2 in a closely contested game. In other good news, pitcher Jeremy Shepps was featured in article printed by The Patriot-News of central Pennsylvania. The article praises Shepps' exceptional baseball talent and documents how he came to make his decision to come play baseball at Gallaudet. The article can be found in its entirety on the Gallaudet athletics site, [gallaudetathletics.com](http://gallaudetathletics.com).

### Softball

The lady Bison had reason to celebrate on March 12 when they won their first Capital Athletic Conference game since 2001. Gallaudet upended Stevenson 11-7 in the first game of a double-header. Senior pitcher Kallie Williams pitched a complete game to get the win. The Bison were lead at the plate by shortstop Keri Schmidt, who had four hits. A six-run sixth inning gave the lady Bison the lead for good. As of March 30, the Bison stood at 3-11.

### Track

Gallaudet is enjoying one of its most successful years in recent memory. Kari Olney was leading the conference in the 3000m Steeplechase in late March with a time of 12:47.74. Through three meets, Olney placed first in all events at the

3000m distance. Newcomer Rose Ritz ran well in her first competition of the year, placing second in the 800m with a time of 2:32.4 at the Salisbury Opener. Gallaudet seniors Kari Olney and Matthew Schindel also started the season strong, placing first in javelin field events. Anthony Baskin also had a very impressive performance at the Battleground Relays. The senior placed first in the 110m hurdles, second in the high jump, and fourth in the triple jump. ■

## ON THE GREEN

Kendall Green  
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## Clerc Center Happenings

### Clerc Center to host conference on cochlear implants and sign language

By David Tossman

The Clerc Center's Cochlear Implant Education Center (CIEC) will host a conference, "Cochlear Implants and Sign Language: Building Foundations for Effective Educational Practices," April 15 to 17 at the Kellogg Conference Hotel. The conference is for professionals nationwide who are involved in providing services for children with cochlear implants in educational settings, inclusive of both spoken language and sign language.

The conference will feature several speakers and panel discussions focusing on current trends and practices as well as on designing services and programs.

There will also be work groups to explore issues and challenges related to serving students with cochlear implants and to discuss recommendations for effective practices.

"The purpose of the conference is to bring together school professionals from both schools for the deaf and mainstream programs to discuss effective practices that are emerging to meet the needs of the growing number of children who have cochlear implants," said Debra Nussbaum, coordinator of the CIEC.

Nussbaum hopes that this conference will "light the spark to systematically look at the causes of the issues we are all facing in planning for students with cochlear implants and collectively begin the process of identifying what constitutes 'effective practices' for all children with cochlear implants."

With increasing numbers of children with cochlear implants around the country, the CIEC strives to identify best and evolving practices for educating them. With this in mind, the goals of the conference are to:

1. Share national trends and practices
2. Provide guiding principles and underlying research critical to establishing effective programs
3. Provide examples of program and support service models and strategies employed in various school settings
4. Identify issues and causes that lead to implementing effective programs for children with cochlear implants
5. Discuss mechanisms for continued professional networking

To register for the conference or for more information, visit [www.regonline.com/builder/site/Default.aspx?eventid=685263](http://www.regonline.com/builder/site/Default.aspx?eventid=685263). ■

Andre Pellerin (left), art gallery, laboratory, and equipment specialist for the Art Department, demonstrates to a group of art gallery and museum exhibit consultants how he gauges height when hanging paintings for an exhibition so that they can be clearly seen by tall people and wheelchair users alike. Also pictured are exhibit designers Becky Fong (left) and Mayura Deshpande. Also at the visit was exhibit coordinator Ja'Niene Mitchem (not pictured). The consultants are hired by Gallagher & Associates art gallery of Bethesda, Md., to meet with Pellerin and receive guidance on how to make their gallery more accessible.



### Rotary awards 15 new scholarships

One of the longest standing relationships that Gallaudet has enjoyed with a civic organization is with Rotary District #7620, made up of 68 clubs in the Washington, D.C.-Baltimore, Md. region.

On March 25, Gallaudet and District #7620 celebrated their 35-year partnership at the annual Rotary Day luncheon and scholarship awards ceremony in "Ole Jim." According to Rotary District Governor Bette Lewis, over 200 scholarships, each in the amount of \$2,000, have been awarded to Gallaudet students since the district established the scholarship fund in 1974. The scholarship endowment now stands at \$378,000 and, according to Lewis, the Scholarship Committee's goal is for the endowment to reach \$500,000.

In addition to awarding 15 new scholarships for U.S. and international under-

graduate and graduate students, one of the highlights of Rotary Day 2009 was to honor two Rotary officials—scholarship project co-chairs J. Roland Cumberland, past district governor, and Henry Tate, who have been involved in Rotary Day since its inception, by having scholarships established in their names. The Rotarians also learned from Dr. Barbara White, a professor in the Department of Social Work, Touria Boren, project specialist in Enrollment Marketing Services, and Evelyn Katz, one of the new scholarship recipients, about Gallaudet first-year students' efforts to improve life for the Costa Rican deaf community during the students' recent study tour of the country.

President Davila told the district members that Gallaudet values their support, and added, "Gallaudet has a wonderful community, but we wouldn't be what we are without partnerships like this." ■



District #7620 Rotary officials and new scholarship recipients gather for a photo at Rotary Day 2009. Pictured (from left) are: standing—Jim Lightfoot, Charles County La Plata Rotary; Roland Cumberland, Upper Marlboro Rotary; Rev. Ann Benefield, Potomac Rotary; Henry Tate, Potomac Rotary; students Jamela Posey (U.S.), Rani Alameh (Lebanon), Colleen Farrell (U.S., graduate student), Andrea Amati (U.S.), Evelyn Katz (Argentina), Stalin Thermadom (India), Jeanine Wiesblatt (Canada), Victor Conejo (Peru); Bette Lewis, District Governor, College Park Rotary; student Danielle Henkel (U.S.); Anna Kobbe, College Park Rotary; Pat Kasuda, Glen Burnie Rotary; and Shirley Posey, Charles County, La Plata Rotary; kneeling—students Jay Harris (U.S.) and Alphonse Nsumbu (Congo, graduate student). (Not pictured are U.S. undergraduate students Julianne Bristol, Megan Erasmus, William Jennison, and graduate student Cara Miller.)

### First Year Study Tour

*continued from page 1*

In the province of Guanacaste, on the northwestern tip of the country near the border with Nicaragua, students were treated to an afternoon of traditional pottery making by local artists using pre-Columbian techniques that involve taking natural clay from the soil kneading it on the ground with bare feet.

While some students were making the pottery, another group challenged the local village team to a game of soccer. At first, the Costa Rican players were beating the Gallaudet team 4-1. However, at half-time they let their younger players on the field and the game was eventually tied at 4-4.

Other activities students enjoyed were salsa lessons; a night time visit to a beach to look for sea turtles; a visit to a volcanic hot springs at the base of the still-active Arenal Volcano, and shopping in local markets. Students also practiced LESCO, the sign language of Costa Rica, with deaf Costa Ricans. (Videos of eight LESCO lessons featuring Kelly Scherf, a Gallaudet alumna who is now living in Costa Rica and who helped plan the

tour, were put on the Study Tour website to practice before the trip.)

The FYST was a once in a lifetime opportunity to develop a global and cultural awareness, international travel experience, cross-cultural communication, and enjoyable peer interaction. Students have commented how much the trip helped them bond with their classmates and the trip's faculty and staff, and how much they appreciated the opportunity for international travel. Some have expressed interest in doing internships in Costa Rica in the future.

During the trip, students' friends and families had a chance to follow their experience through photos, videos, and vlogs posted daily on the trip's website. The site received over 34,000 hits during the week of travel, and it now serves as a virtual photo album to remember the adventure.

The trip was so successful that it will be offered again next year as part of Gallaudet's recruitment and enrollment efforts. Evaluations have been overwhelmingly positive and students are still reminiscing about the trip.

For more highlights of the trip, visit the website at [admissions.gallaudet.edu/studytour](http://admissions.gallaudet.edu/studytour). ■

## Ask Cousin Sally

Cousin Sally, OTG's resident retired dairy farmer and advice columnist, is ready for your questions at [cousin.sally@gallaudet.edu](mailto:cousin.sally@gallaudet.edu).

## Among Ourselves

**Dr. Donna Mertens**, a professor in the Department of Educational Foundations and Research, made a presentation on March 19 to the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's Evaluation Fellows at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, Pa. Her presentation, titled "Research and Evaluation Paradigms: Alternative Views of the World," focused on the use of evaluation for the purpose of societal improvement and social action, as well as cultural diversity in evaluation and issues of social justice. The fellows are chosen because they conduct evaluations in marginalized communities based on race, ethnicity, disability, and immigrant status.

Posters presented by deaf studies graduate student **Summer Crider** and clinical psychology Ph.D. candidate **Lori Day** at the Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Conference, held March 9 and 10 in Addison, Tex., won two of the seven "Outstanding Poster" awards. Also at that conference, Crider and Au.D. student **Rachel Berman** served as panelists for a presentation about summer camps for deaf children that was facilitated by **Dr. Gina Oliva**, faculty fellow and professor in the Department of Physical Education and Recreation. ■



## Campus Calendar

### April

**10**—Racquetball Tournament, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Field House Racquetball Room  
**10-12**—*Urinetown, the Musical*, 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, 2 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Elstad Auditorium  
**11**—Gallaudet Community Relations Council's 26th Annual Awards and Recognition Program, 3 p.m., GUKCH  
**13**—New Molecular Genetics Laboratory open house, 2-4 p.m., HMB W411  
**15**—Language Lecture Series presentation, "Building an ASL Corpus," noon-1 p.m., SLCC Atrium  
**16-19**—*Urinetown, the Musical*, 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, 2 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Elstad Auditorium  
**23**—Awards Day 2009, 4-6 p.m., GUKCH  
**24**—UnityFest, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Foster Auditorium  
**25**—The Big Read city-wide kickoff, 11 a.m., Elstad Auditorium  
**28**—President's Town Hall, 3:30-5p.m., Foster Auditorium  
**April 29-May 8**—Bison Shop Textbook Buyback Program, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Bison Shop bookstore

### 'URINETOWN, THE MUSICAL'

*URINETOWN*, directed by Monique Holt, is a hilarious tale of greed, corruption, love, and revolution in a time when water is worth its weight in gold. In a Gotham-like city, a terrible water shortage, caused by a 20-year drought, has led to a government-enforced ban on private toilets. The citizens must use public amenities, regulated by a single malevolent company that profits by charging admission for one of humanity's most basic needs. Amid the people, a hero decides he's had enough, and plans a revolution to lead them all to freedom!

Appropriate for patrons ages 12 and older.

Performances are April 9-12 and 16-19 in Elstad Auditorium.

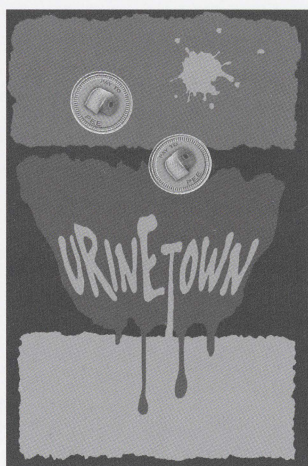
Tickets: Full-time Gallaudet students who have paid the unit fee receive one free ticket with ID; non-Gallaudet students with ID: \$10 online, \$12 at the Box Office; adults: \$15 online, \$20 at the Box Office; groups of 10 or more people, send email or call.

Phone: (202) 651-5500 (Voice)/ (202) 651-5502 (TTY)

Email: theatre.tickets@gallaudet.edu

Website: theatrearts.gallaudet.edu

Buy Tickets: theatre-arts-department.ticketleap.com



## Washington, D.C. to kick off reading initiative at Gallaudet

Gallaudet has been chosen as the site to inaugurate Washington, D.C.'s participation in this year's The Big Read, a national initiative of the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) that aims to restore reading to its former prominence in American culture. The kick off, which will be co-sponsored by the Gallaudet University Community Relations Council, will take place at Elstad Auditorium on Saturday, April 25 at 11 a.m.

The University is the logical venue to launch The Big Read because this year's title has a deaf person as its central character: The city has chosen *The Heart is a Lonely Hunter*, Carson McCullers seminal novel set during the Depression of the 1930s about a deaf man, John Singer, and how his life intertwines with four acquaintances in a small Southern mill town. The book's masterful approach to themes of alienation, class, poverty, and race relations have made it an American classic. *Time* magazine included *The Heart is a Lonely Hunter* among its 100 best English-language novels from 1923 to 2000, and the book has been adapted for both stage and screen.

Because its central character is an enigmatic deaf man, *Heart* is often studied by Gallaudet students. English Professor Pia Taavila's ENG 325 class, "Deaf in Literature," is studying it this semester. Dr. Taavila said that the novel is important because the central character "is a Deaf man who is portrayed in an interesting and compelling light, a unique accomplishment, particularly for

the time period in which the novel was written and is set." The fact that McCullers was only 23 when the novel was published makes the work even more remarkable, said Taavila. "McCullers' writing is amazingly accomplished for one so young," she said. "It is a classic which bears renewed interest and study."

The honorary chair for the District of Columbia's 2009 Big Read is George Pelecanos, a noted author of crime novels set in D.C., and a writer and producer for television best known for his work on the HBO series, "The Wire." Pelecanos will give a presentation entitled "Why I Read and Why I Write" at the kick off. The event will also include a performance of "Road Signs" by Quest: Arts for Everyone, the award-winning visual theater company.

*The Heart is a Lonely Hunter* was selected for the city's Big Read after a review of the NEA's list of book titles by the Humanities Council of Washington, D.C., the D.C. Commission on the Arts and Humanities, and community partner organizations from previous year's Big Reads, said Michon Boston, the city's project director for this year's event. "Our community partners tend to be voracious readers and very passionate about the value and benefits of reading," said Boston. "They also try to select books that can stir a meaningful dialogue around issues that are pertinent to our city. Washington, D.C. is still a very segregated city by race, class, education, and hearing and deaf. I believe our community partners who were part of the 2009

## Campus goes dark to call for action on climate change

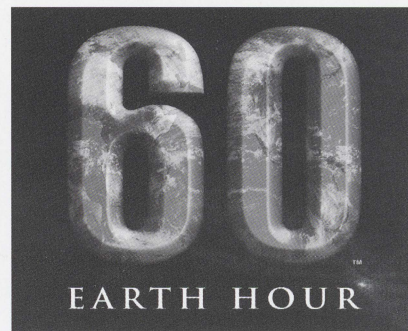


Photo: © WWF

The Earth Hour logo was used worldwide to promote the hour of reduced electricity use.

On March 28, the lights on campus went out. It wasn't a blackout caused by an accidental power outage, but a fully intentional action to raise awareness about climate change.

From 8:30 to 9:30 p.m., the residents of Kendall Green joined environmentally conscious people from 4,000 towns and cities worldwide, as well as a number of sites that are famed for their grand illumination—the Eiffel Tower, Golden Gate Bridge, and Times Square—in observing Earth Hour, an activity organized by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF).

To ensure Gallaudet's full involvement in the event, the student organization Green Gallaudet collaborated with Facilities to extinguish all non-essential lights in main campus buildings. Because

light and electricity usage in the dorms was up to students, Green Gallaudet members asked dorm dwellers to sign a pledge to save energy during that time in exchange for a heart-felt thanks and a mini flashlight. Green Gallaudet encouraged students to use these flashlights and candles during Earth Hour, and distributed a list of ideas of activities to keep participants occupied during the hour, like having a candle-lit dinner and playing a game of charades. In just a short lunchtime tabling session, the pledge was signed by 87 students.

A main goal of Earth Hour was to send a signal to the world in general and United Nations Representatives in particular that they must take major steps to confront climate change. The global effort has already had an impact. The day after Earth Hour, United Nations Climate Chief Yvo de Boer brought news of people's concerns to a session on climate talks and urged delegates from nearly 190 countries to listen to the millions who turned off their lights. WWF reported de Boer saying, "The world's concerned citizens have given the negotiations an additional clear mandate."

De Boer's statement encouraged Earth Hour participants, and indicated a push toward decisive action when U.N. players meet in Copenhagen, Denmark for climate talks in December. ■



The University's Second Annual Diversity Week activities, held March 23 to 27, included a "Culture Shock" presentation (LEFT) by Shingo Takemoto (standing) and Jung-Sung An of the English Language Institute Student Organization, who talked about their month-long travels in India during winter break, and "Women in Islam," (BELOW) by Brianne Weber of the Deaf Muslim Student Association. Other events included an African dance performance by the group Kwassas, hosted by the Black Deaf Student Union; a bake sale put on by the Asian-Pacific Association and the Rainbow Society; a foreign sign language showcase with the International Student Club; a "2 Out of 5 Senses" workshop hosted by the Deaf-Blind Union; and a Sisterhood Organization presentation on deaf women of color. Diversity Week was sponsored by the Student Body Government in addition to other student organizations.



selection were looking for a book that could potentially make The Big Read-D.C. a bridge between these communities."

According to The Big Read's website, a 2004 NEA report identified a critical decline in reading for pleasure among American adults. The Big Read addresses this issue by bringing communities together to read, discuss, and celebrate books and writers from American and world literature. The activity began as a pilot project in 2006 with 10 communities featuring four books. It became a national event the following year, and it is estimated that by this year 400 communities will have taken up the cause to share the value of reading. Each community is free to select a book title of its choice.

Gallaudet is supporting the initiative with a number of events to promote the book to the campus community.

Although The Big Read doesn't officially begin until April 23, the Library is hosting an April 7 panel discussion on the novel from 4 to 5 p.m. in the JSAC G-Area. The panelists will be undergraduate students Ricky Alewine, Jeb Baldrige, Orangel Price, and Yiqiao Wang., and Instruction and Reference Librarian Jim McCarthy will serve as moderator.

The Library owns at least 15 circulating copies of the novel, according to Manager of Library Instruction and Reference Laura Jacobi, as well as three circulating copies of the VHS video of the 1968 movie, for which Alan Arkin won the New York Film Critics Circle Award for best actor in the role of Singer. ■